



CITRUS ABANDONED ACRES

Cooperating with the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
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Abandoned Acreage Up 1 Percent

Untended citrus groves were identified, and their location recorded during the annual Commercial Citrus Tree Inventory. Citrus tree condition was evaluated and an overall assessment was made of citrus groves shown on the maps of Florida citrus growing areas. Some citrus groves previously identified as abandoned have either been destroyed, returned back to production, or remain abandoned. Abandoned groves are a threat to the citrus industry and are a haven for psyllids carrying the bacterium that causes greening disease.

Additional groves are added each year when they meet the abandoned grove criteria. A citrus grove is classified as abandoned when the following conditions exist: no production care during the past 2 years, lack of weed control or grass mowing, livestock present, weather damaged or neglected trees that are not economically feasible to maintain, or no commercial harvest during the last 2 seasons. Whenever possible, property owners or caretakers were contacted regarding the future use of their groves.

Two of the five production areas show decreases in abandoned acres. Of the 29 counties surveyed, 12 show increases, 3 had no change, and 14 show decreases in total abandoned acreage. The Indian River production area leads with 40 percent of the state's total abandoned acreage while the Central and Western areas have less than 10 percent each. By county, the greatest decrease of total abandoned acres is 1,697 or 52 percent of the previously reported total in Highlands County. The greatest increase in abandoned grove acres is 3,439 in St. Lucie County, but Sarasota recorded the highest percentage of increase. Results of this survey indicate a 32 percent increase in understory acres, which includes pine stands and forested areas with abandoned, unintentional, or feral citrus trees scattered underneath their canopy. Brevard and Lake Counties have the largest increases of understory acreage.

Citrus Abandoned Acreage by County and Survey Year – Florida: 2012-2014

County	Parcels			Abandoned								
				Grove			Understory			Total		
	2012	2013	2014	2012	2013	2014	2012	2013	2014	2012	2013	2014
	(number)	(number)	(number)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)
Brevard	581	565	483	5,186	4,585	2,695	70	70	247	5,257	4,655	2,942
Charlotte	177	175	181	2,378	2,297	2,418	-	-	-	2,378	2,297	2,418
Collier	19	31	31	286	662	662	-	-	-	286	662	662
De Soto	363	339	353	3,305	3,112	3,216	-	-	-	3,305	3,112	3,216
Glades	47	38	45	800	675	674	-	-	-	800	675	674
Hardee	373	362	344	2,906	2,858	2,566	-	-	-	2,906	2,858	2,566
Hendry	333	377	382	7,882	8,449	9,337	37	37	37	7,919	8,486	9,374
Hernando	57	57	55	944	941	931	37	37	37	981	978	968
Highlands	232	232	149	3,240	3,240	1,528	-	-	15	3,240	3,240	1,543
Hillsborough	548	487	491	4,308	3,664	3,462	-	-	-	4,308	3,664	3,462
Indian River	743	781	815	12,130	12,307	12,414	124	124	124	12,254	12,431	12,539
Lake	1,001	1,033	1,012	10,582	10,766	9,966	2,727	2,730	4,191	13,309	13,497	14,157
Lee	97	93	96	767	736	749	-	-	-	767	736	749
Manatee	312	308	286	3,212	3,139	2,762	-	-	-	3,212	3,139	2,762
Marion	68	67	81	244	205	267	691	691	691	935	896	958
Martin	559	554	596	17,127	16,495	17,350	-	-	-	17,127	16,495	17,350
Okeechobee	156	105	94	2,858	1,568	1,411	-	-	-	2,858	1,568	1,411
Orange	285	261	243	3,026	2,420	2,138	360	486	416	3,386	2,906	2,554
Osceola	335	337	357	2,852	2,836	2,955	-	-	162	2,852	2,836	3,117
Pasco	208	207	250	1,805	1,680	2,236	343	465	493	2,148	2,145	2,729
Polk	1,087	1,063	1,017	8,652	8,436	7,636	410	410	410	9,062	8,846	8,046
Putnam	16	16	17	93	93	99	-	-	-	93	93	99
St. Lucie	1,146	1,134	1,287	28,519	28,145	31,584	548	322	322	29,067	28,467	31,906
Sarasota	17	18	32	130	131	298	-	-	-	130	131	298
Seminole	75	60	52	401	309	250	8	8	-	409	316	250
Volusia	199	198	181	1,684	1,676	1,458	112	112	112	1,796	1,788	1,570
Others ¹	180	180	179	5,632	5,554	5,551	76	76	76	5,630	5,630	5,627
Total	9,214	9,078	9,109	130,949	126,978	126,614	5,542	5,569	7,334	136,533	132,547	133,947

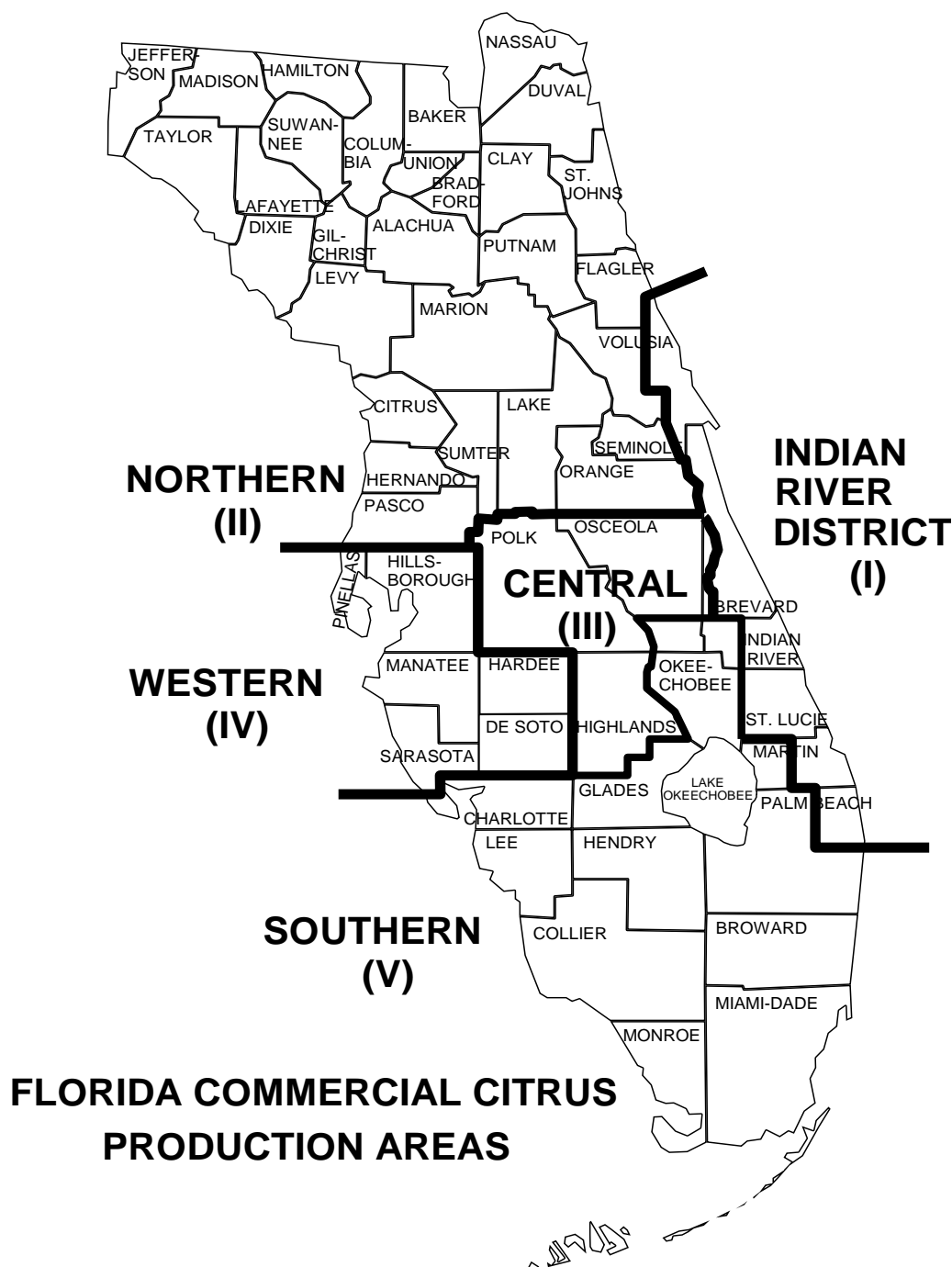
- Represents zero.

¹ Citrus, Palm Beach, and Pinellas counties.

Citrus Abandoned Acreage by Production Area and Survey Year – Florida: 2012-2014

Production Area	Parcels			Abandoned								
				Grove			Understory			Total		
	2012	2013	2014	2012	2013	2014	2012	2013	2014	2012	2013	2014
	(number)	(number)	(number)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)
Indian River	2,730	2,756	2,896	51,352	50,372	53,314	784	558	735	52,136	50,930	54,050
Northern Area	1,838	1,823	1,809	18,238	17,521	16,723	4,241	4,494	5,904	22,521	22,015	22,627
Central Area	1,689	1,667	1,530	16,035	15,803	12,262	480	480	657	16,515	16,283	12,919
Western Area	1,616	1,517	1,509	13,876	12,920	12,321	-	-	-	13,876	12,920	12,321
Southern Area	1,341	1,315	1,365	31,448	30,362	31,993	37	37	37	31,485	30,399	32,030
Total	9,214	9,078	9,109	130,949	126,978	126,614	5,542	5,569	7,334	136,533	132,547	133,947

- Represents zero.



FLORIDA COMMERCIAL CITRUS PRODUCTION AREAS